

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01701 212032Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01
CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 DOEE-00 /126 W
-----109752 212037Z /47

O 211940Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1251

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PLOS
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 41574, (B) 77 CARACAS 2089, (C) STATE 40160

1. AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED TO CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER EVENING FEBRUARY 20, 1978 AND WAS GIVEN DIPLOMATIC
NOTE DATED FEBRUARY 7 REFERRING TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE
DATED FEBRUARY 28, 1977 WHICH CARRIED OUT THE
INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF VENEZUELAN NOTE AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE: "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WITH RELATION TO THE
CONTENT OF ITS KIND COMMUNICATIONS NUMBER 106 DATED
FEBRUARY 28, 1977, RELATIVE TO THE MARITIME FRONTIER
BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN THE AREA OFF THE COAST OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF
THE UNITED STATES, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, THE
ISLAND OF AVES OF VENEZUELA AND OTHER VENEZUELAN
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TERRITORIES.
"IN REPLY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS THE
HONOR TO INFORM THAT HONORABLE EMBASSY THAT THE MARITIME
LIMITS, THE APPLICATION OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES IN THE AREA DESCRIBED AND
SPECIFIED IN PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER 526 DATED MARCH 1,
1977, DRAWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED TO NOTE NUMBER 106

OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977 (ACTUALLY FURNISHED IN OCTOBER 1977 IN
RESPONSE TO 77 CARACAS 9913) ARE ACCEPTABLE TO VENEZUELA.
"IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT, NORTH OF THE DELIMITATION LINE
REFERRED TO PREVIOUSLY, VENEZUELA, AND SOUTH OF THAT LINE,
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL CARRY OUT NO ACT,
CLAIM OR EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OR JURISDICTION
OVER WATERS, THE SEABED OR WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SEABED.
"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINE OF DELIMITATION OF
MARINE AND SUBMARINE AREAS NEITHER IMPLIES NOR PRESUPPOSES AN
ALTERATION OF THE CRITERIA OR POSITIONS MAINTAINED
BY EACH GOVERNMENT OVER THE JURIDICAL NATURE OR THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.
"BASED ON THE FORMER CONSIDERATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT
OF VENEZUELA HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT, IF THE TERMS
OF THE PRESENT INSTRUMENT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THIS NOTE AND THE RESPONSE OF THAT
GOVERNMENT (I.E., US), AS WELL AS
THE CORRESPONDING MAPS, WILL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN SUCH A CASE, THE AGREEMENT
WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ONCE THE PERTINENT LEGAL PROVISIONS
OF EACH COUNTRY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TAKES THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

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"CARACAS, FEBRUARY 7, 1978." END QUOTE

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT
REACTION ASAP. THE VENEZUELANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
THIS EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONCLUDED AT THE TIME OF
PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA (THIS COULD TAKE
PLACE AS EARLY AS THE END OF MARCH 1978).

VAKY

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NNN

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